

20 January 2025

Pwnc / Subject: Democratic Responsibility and Support for Welsh Cultural Institutions

Dear Minister,

In light of the new Welsh National Theatre being established by a private individual following the closure of the state-funded National Theatre Wales in December 2024, I am writing to express Plaid Cymru's concern over the Welsh Government's failure to adequately support key cultural institutions like the National Theatre Wales.

The creation of National Theatre Wales was in response to widespread public and political demand for a national cultural institution that would showcase Welsh creativity, talent, and identity to the world. It was about more than just creating art; it was about a shared vision for the future of Welsh culture.

Its establishment received cross party support, and was a programme of Government commitment as part of the 2007 One Wales Agreement between Plaid Cymru and Welsh Labour.

As you will know, concerns were raised about National Theatre Wales in recent years which led to the Arts Council withdrawing funding. Our view as a party is that action should have been taken to address concerns before we ended up in this situation, and the fact that this has been allowed to happen under your Government's watch undermines the collective effort that led to its formation.

During plenary questions last week, I raised my wider concerns about the Welsh Government's attitude towards the crisis within the culture sector but unfortunately was not given any reassurance that this is being taken with the seriousness it deserves. This follows the First Minister's own comments where she said that the sector is "alive and well".

Plaid Cymru believes that cultural institutions are key to building national pride, bringing people together, and driving growth in our creative industries. The failure to provide adequate support jeopardizes these benefits and sends a troubling message to the creative community and the wider public. It is imperative that the Welsh Government acknowledges its responsibility in ensuring these institutions are nurtured and maintained in line with the democratic will of the Senedd.

We urge the Welsh Government to reflect on the broader implications of this approach and to reaffirm its commitment to supporting Welsh arts and culture as a vital foundation of our national

identity. Plaid Cymru will continue to highlight this issue and press for greater accountability in upholding the democratic mandate that established these institutions.

I look forward to your response and further clarity on the Welsh Government's position regarding its responsibility and support for national cultural institutions.

Yours sincerely,

Heledd Fychan MS